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Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Experimental weekly estimates on the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on employee jobs and wages, sourced from Single Touch Payroll data

Reference period Week ending 18 April 2020

Released 5/05/2020

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Key statistics

Between the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) and the week ending 18 April 2020:

- Employee jobs decreased by 7.5%.
- Total wages paid decreased by 8.2%.

Key findings

Graph 1 - Changes in employee jobs and total wages indexed to the week



Between the week ending 11 April 2020 and the week ending 18 April 2020:

- Employee jobs decreased by 1.5%, compared to a decrease of 0.3% in the previous week
- Total wages paid decreased by 1.0%, compared to a decrease of 1.6% in the previous week

Key COVID-19 dates:

- 22 March: Prime Minister announces Stage 2 lock down changes, which are progressively implemented
- 30 March: Prime Minister announces JobKeeper program

Jobs and wages by state and territory

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed

COVID-19 case), the largest changes were:

- Employee jobs: Victoria decreased by 8.6% and Tasmania decreased by 8.0%
- Total wages: Tasmania decreased by 9.3%, and Victoria and the Northern Territory both decreased by 9.2%

Between the week ending 11 April 2020 and the week ending 18 April 2020, the largest changes were:

- Employee jobs: Western Australia decreased by 2.4% and the Australian Capital Territory decreased by 2.3%
- Total wages: The Australian Capital Territory decreased by 4.0% and the Northern Territory decreased by 1.8%

Table 1 - Percentage changes by states and territories (a)

	Change in employee jobs between 11 April and 18 April	Change in employee jobs between 14 March and 18 April	Change in total wages between 11 April and 18 April	Change in total wages between 14 March and 18 April
NSW	-1.3%	-7.4%	-1.0%	-7.5%
Vic.	-1.7%	-8.6%	-0.8%	-9.2%
Qld	-0.7%	-6.5%	-1.1%	-8.3%
SA	-1.8%	-7.8%	0.0%	-4.5%
WA	-2.4%	-6.6%	-1.0%	-9.0%
Tas.	-2.1%	-8.0%	-1.2%	-9.3%
NT	-2.0%	-5.7%	-1.8%	-9.2%
ACT	-2.3%	-6.9%	-4.0%	-7.5%
Australia	-1.5%	-7.5%	-1.0%	-8.2%

a. These estimates are revised as additional data become available. Particular care should be exercised in focusing on weekly movements in wages, which are subject to a higher degree of reporting variability and revisions.

Jobs and wages by sex

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case):

- Employee jobs: Those worked by females decreased by 8.1% and those worked by males decreased by 6.2%
- Total wages: Payments to males decreased by 8.9% and payments to females decreased by 7.0%

Between the week ending 11 April 2020 and the week ending 18 April 2020:

- Employee jobs: Those worked by females decreased by 1.9% and those worked by males decreased by 1.0%
- Total wages: Payments to males decreased by 1.1% and payments to females decreased by 0.8%

Table 2 - Changes by sex

	Change in employee jobs between 11 April and 18 April	Change in employee jobs between 14 March and 18 April	Change in total wages between 11 April and 18 April	Change in total wages between 14 March and 18 April
Males	-1.0%	-6.2%	-1.1%	-8.9%
Females	-1.9%	-8.1%	-0.8%	-7.0%
All persons	-1.5%	-7.5%	-1.0%	-8.2%

Jobs and wages by age group

Since the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case), the largest changes were:

- Employee jobs: Those worked by people aged under 20 decreased by 18.5% and those worked by people aged 70 and over decreased by 13.9%
- Total wages: Payments to people aged over 70 decreased by 10.7% and payments to people aged 20-29 decreased by 10.3%

Between the week ending 11 April 2020 and the week ending 18 April 2020, the largest changes were:

- Employee jobs: Those worked by people aged 70 and over decreased by 3.3% and those worked by people aged 20-29 decreased by 2.3%
- Total wages: Payments to people aged 70 and over decreased by 2.5% and payments to people aged under 20 increased by 2.5%

Table 3 - Changes by age group

	Change in employee jobs between 11 April and 18 April	Change in employee jobs between 14 March and 18 April	Change in total wages between 11 April and 18 April	Change in total wages between 14 March and 18 April
Aged under 20	0.3%	-18.5%	2.5%	-6.9%
20-29 years olds	-2.3%	-11.8%	-1.6%	-10.3%
30-39 years olds	-1.4%	-5.5%	-1.4%	-7.3%
40-49 years olds	-1.1%	-4.2%	-0.6%	-8.2%
50-59 years olds	-1.0%	-4.1%	-0.6%	-7.6%
60-69 years olds	-1.3%	-5.3%	-0.6%	-6.9%
70 years and over	-3.3%	-13.9%	-2.5%	-10.7%
All persons	-1.5%	-7.5%	-1.0%	-8.2%

Jobs and wages by industry

Between the week ending 14 March 2020 (the week Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case) and the week ending 18 April 2020, the largest changes were:

- Employee jobs: Accommodation and food services decrease by 33.4% and Arts and recreation services decreased by 27.0%
- Total wages: Accommodation and food services decreased by 30.3% and Arts and recreation services decreased by 17.3%

Between the week ending 11 April 2020 and the week ending 18 April 2020, the largest changes were:

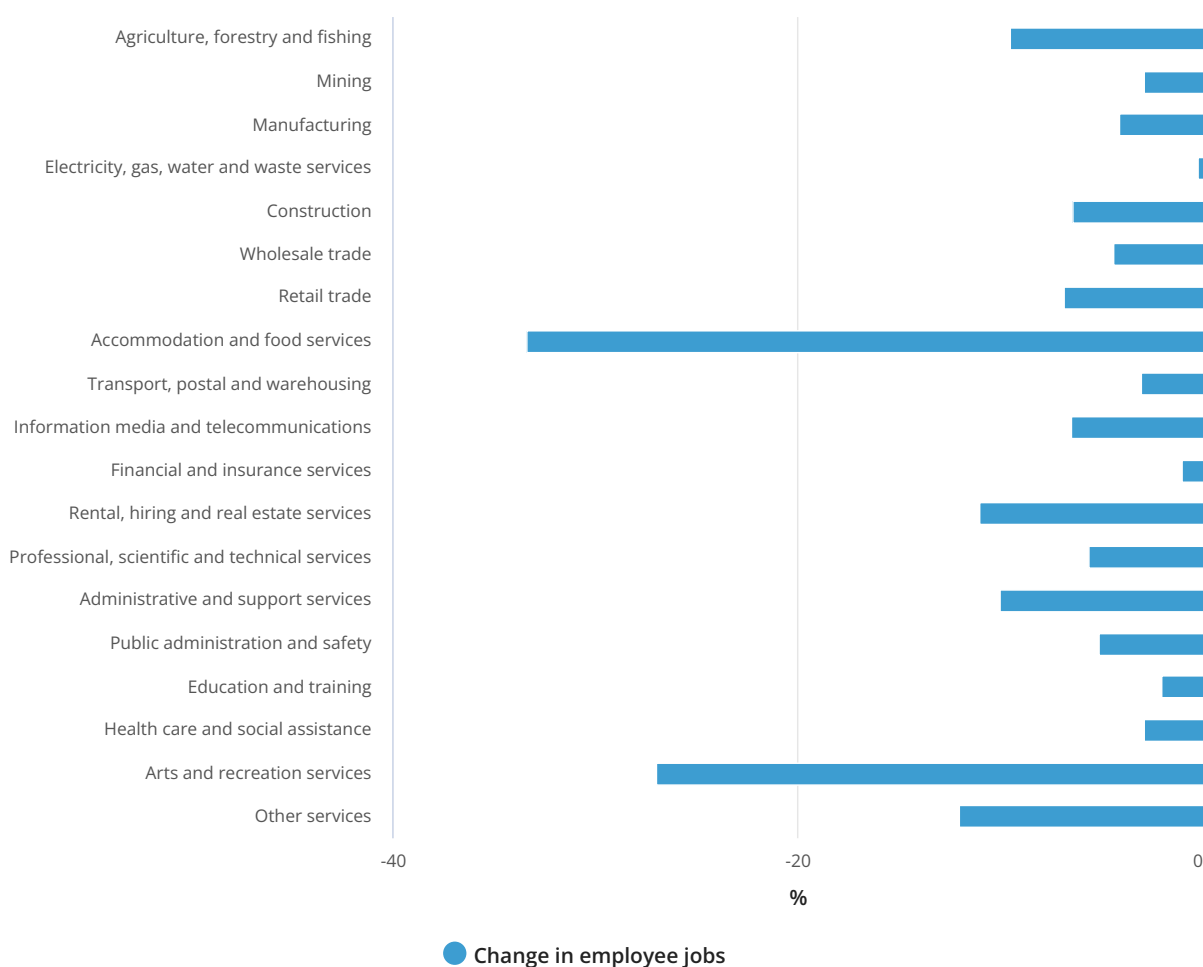
- Employee jobs: Arts and recreation services decreased by 8.6% and Other services decreased by 3.0%
- Total wages: Wholesale trade decreased by 4.0% and Administration and support services decreased by 3.6%

Table 4 - Changes by industry (a)

	Change in employee jobs between 11 April and 18 April	Change in employee jobs between 14 March and 18 April	Change in total wages between 11 April and 18 April	Change in total wages between 14 March and 18 April
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-2.8%	-9.5%	-3.3%	-8.6%
Mining	-0.5%	-2.9%	1.8%	-11.6%
Manufacturing	-0.4%	-4.1%	0.9%	-8.9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.0%	-0.2%	1.2%	-2.4%
Construction	-1.6%	-6.4%	-1.2%	-7.4%
Wholesale trade	-0.7%	-4.4%	-4.0%	-10.9%
Retail trade	-1.0%	-6.8%	-1.4%	-10.6%
Accommodation and food services	0.3%	-33.4%	0.4%	-30.3%
Transport, postal and warehousing	-0.5%	-3.0%	-1.7%	-5.6%
Information media and telecommunications	-1.9%	-6.5%	-2.8%	-7.0%
Financial and insurance services	-0.2%	-1.0%	-0.4%	-10.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-2.9%	-11.0%	-2.2%	-13.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-1.6%	-5.6%	-2.2%	-7.7%
Administrative and support services	-2.7%	-10.0%	-3.6%	-11.0%
Public administration and safety	-1.3%	-5.1%	0.7%	-5.7%
Education and training	-0.2%	-2.0%	1.2%	-0.8%
Health care and social assistance	-2.7%	-2.9%	-1.3%	-2.8%
Arts and recreation services	-8.6%	-27.0%	-0.6%	-17.3%
Other services	-3.0%	-12.0%	-2.3%	-8.8%
All industries	-1.5%	-7.5%	-1.0%	-8.2%

a. These estimates are revised as additional data become available. Particular care should be exercised in focusing on weekly movements in wages, which are subject to a higher degree of reporting variability and revisions.

Graph 2 - Changes in employee jobs by industry since 14 March 2020



Data downloads

I-note

These downloads are currently available in an Excel file format that may not be accessible for users of assistive devices, such as screen readers. [Contact us](#) (<mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>) and we can discuss the best way to meet your needs.

Table 1: National spotlight

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[81.15 KB]

Table 2: State and territory spotlight

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[328.04 KB]

Table 3: Industry spotlight

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[621.42 KB]

Table 4: Employee jobs and wages indices

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[925.17 KB]

Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 18 April 2020](#)